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proximal aspiration coupling tube 24, 26 are released from the clamping action of the pinch valve 45 by depressing the pinch valve. Irrigating fluid is thereby permitted to flow through the first and second proximal irrigation coupling tubes 24, 26, through the irrigation conduit 72 and the hollow jaw mount 84, and to the jaws 88, 90 at the distal end of the instrument. The fluid flows through the jaws and is aspirated back to the proximal end of the instrument such that the sample held within the jaws is aspirated with the water. Turning back to Figs. 2-6, as the water is aspirated through the aspiration conduit 74 and into the sample chamber 42, the sample is filtered onto the screen 58. The frustoconical shape of the perforations 62 permits increased fluid flow through the perforate screen while preventing the tissue sample from passing through the screen. Irrigation and aspiration means are interrupted by releasing the pinch valve 45 such that the pinch valve clamps down on the first proximal irrigation and aspiration coupling tubes 24, 26 and causes the tubes to collapse on top of each other. The screen 58 may easily be removed to retrieve the sample by gripping the handle portion 52 of the sample catch member 44 and pulling the sample catch member from the sample chamber 42. The sample is recovered from the screen, and the sample catch member is reinserted into the sample chamber to continue the procedure. It will be further appreciated that the entire procedure of cutting a sample and retrieving the sample may be performed without removing the endoscopic multiple sample biopsy forceps instrument from its location within the body. Unlimited subsequent samples may be obtained in an identical manner.

Turning to FIGS. 14 and 15, a second embodiment of a multiple sample biopsy forceps instrument 210 is shown. The instrument includes a proximal actuation handle 212, a flexible multi-lumen tubular member 214, a pull wire 220, and a distal assembly 222. Several coupling tubes are preferably provided to couple the proximal actuation handle 212 to the tubular member 214 and to irrigation and aspiration means. In particular, a Y-shaped control coupling tube 223, first and second irrigation coupling tubes 224, 225, and first and second aspiration coupling tubes 226, 227 are provided.

REMARKS

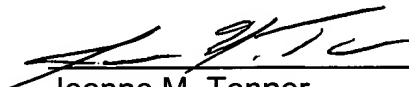
Applicants have amended the specification to include statements that were included in the parent application, but that were inadvertently not included in the present application. Support for these statements can be found throughout the present specification, and particularly in Figs. 2-6 and Figs. 14-15 and the second paragraph of

the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments. No new subject matter has been added by this amendment to the specification.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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